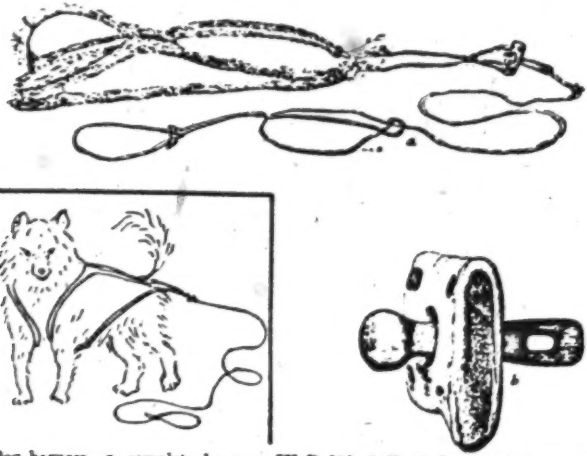
492 [281] traces 15 to 40 feet long that looped over the sled toggle and could all be released simultaneously. The harness, shaped as in Figure 178*a*, was of skin, nearly always the leg skins of the caribou with the hair left on. The loops that passed around the dog's forelegs joined across the shoulders and again below the throat, usually by short yokes, to produce a loop for the head. Two strips of skin then ran backward from the neck yoke, and one from each leg loop ran upward, their ends coming together, in a properly fitted harness, just over the root of the tail, where they were lashed in pairs with rawhide and the rawhide [321] fastened to a slot in the pin of the trace toggle. This trace toggle (Figure 178*b*), made of bone, antler, or musk-ox horn, invariably contained two parts, a pin knobbed in the rear and slotted in front, and a square plaque with one large round hole in the middle for the insertion of the pin, and a smaller hole in each of the four corners for the attachment of the trace. The pin turned freely in the plaque and kept the trace untwisted however often the dog rolled over and over on its back; and the knob at one end, the rawhide lashing at the other, held it securely in place.



[321] →

Figure 178. Dog harness. *a*, complete harness, IV.D.816, 1/16; *b*, bone swivel for the trace, IV.D.193, 3/4.

When not in use harnesses were commonly stored on the roofs of the snow-houses but in summer the dogs wore them continually, for the long traces served to hold on the back-packs, and, in camp, to attach the animals to stones. Often their hungry wearers tore them to shreds; or the harnesses broke and were [281] patched together again. In one such emergency a woman devised a makeshift harness from a broad strip of sealskin; she slit it in three places, inserted the dog's head through the middle slit and a leg through each of the other two, tied the corners of the skin to the trace, and started the day's journey undismayed.

• 483 The harness worn by the Eskimo himself when hauling on the sled had a similar trace to the dog harness, and was hitched to the sled toggle in the same manner, but it consisted merely of a broad band of sealskin, less often caribou skin, that passed over the chest, and was lashed to the end of the trace without any intervening toggle (Figure 179). Women and children pulled in front of 492 the dogs, men behind. The Copper Eskimo did not use whips, but the men often urged on their teams with walking-sticks. Most families had only from two to 231 three dogs, none more than five, owing to the difficulty of feeding the animals.

492

Packs. Dog packs were flat sheets of sealskin, oval in outline, and perforated with holes along the two longer sides for cross lacings. Each end was filled like a bag, and the middle section left empty so that it would lie flat on the dog's back. The trace of the harness was drawn down over one side bag, under the animal's belly, and up over the other side bag; it was then pulled taut, and fastened to the end of the harness. At the end of summer dog packs were often cut up for boot soles, or used on the floors of the snow-huts.

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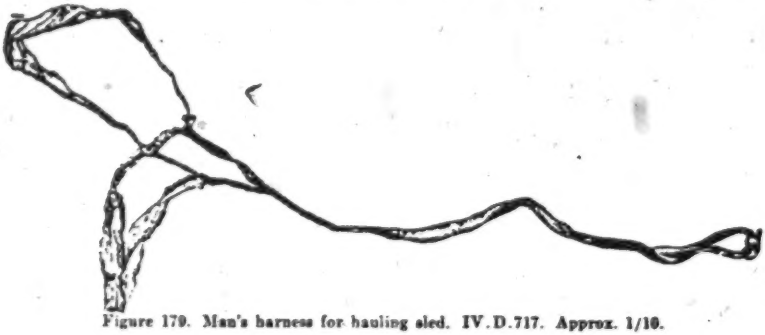

Figure 179. Man's harness for hauling sled. IV.D.717. Approx. 1/10.

482 [492] [284]

The average dog could carry only from 30 to 40 pounds, so that the Eskimo had to transport most of his belongings on his own back, inside his caribou-hide bedskin, by means of a shoulder strap and tump-line. The skin was laid flat on the ground and the articles piled in line on top of it, weight and bulk being distributed as evenly as possible between the two ends. The bundle was then rolled up and lashed with a long sealskin thong in two, or, in a large bundle, three places, the two ends and the middle. What remained of the thong became the shoulder strap; it passed from a loop held by a half hitch at one end of the bundle to a similar loop at the other. The tump-line, which was a band of sealskin or caribou skin with a thong tied to each end, fastened to the thong lashing of the bundle at any convenient points, but usually just behind the end loops.[1]

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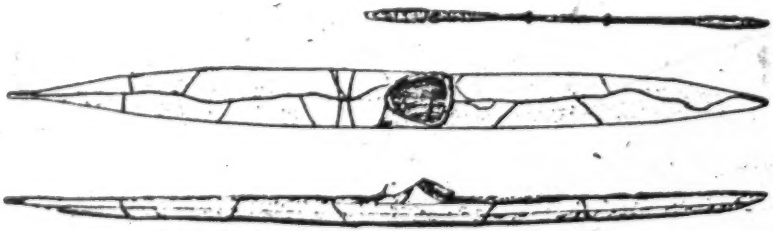

Figure 180. Kayak and paddle. IV.D.1057. Approx. 1/24.

[224]

Kayaks. The Copper Eskimo had never seen a umiak, and they used their kayaks (Figure 180) not for hunting seals, but only for ferrying across bays and rivers and for spearing caribou that had been driven into the water. Though a hunter generally made or bought a kayak at some time or other in his career,

[1] For illustration *See* Reports of the Canadian Arctic Expedition, vol. XII, pt. A., Pl. V, p. 222.